

REMARKS

Primary Reference Used in the Rejection of Claims

A background description of the primary reference (*Varma* -- U.S. Patent No. 6,336,134) is given herein. In the abstract, *Varma* discloses a server used for real-time collaboration sessions. The server supports the creation and deletion of partitions as well as the addition and withdrawal of clients during a current collaboration session. In col. 5, lines 23-26, clients are defined as those running on desk top computers, laptop computers, network computers, or work stations.

In col. 5, lines 39-63, the term "partition" is defined in *Varma* as a workspace broken up into disjoint parts which can be modified independently of each other. Workspaces can be partitioned in different ways, such as by paragraph for a text document, by table for a spreadsheet application, etc. Each partition can be assigned to independent servers.

In col. 6, line 53 through col. 7, line 21, *Varma* appears to teach how the distributed server is used. Each request to modify the work space identifies which partitions are affected by the modification. A "compound modification" appears to refer to a modification that affects a multiplicity of partitions. An ordinary modification only affects one partition. For any partition identified as being affected by a modification, the position of the given modification in the sequence of modifications by any collaboration client is the same. All modifications preceding the given modification on each identified partition would have been processed by the client.

Independent Claims

For convenience, independent claims 1, 7, and 13 are reproduced here:

1. A system for providing synchronization verification of multiple applications across remote systems, the synchronization verification system comprising:

local application sharing logic configured to receive events to be shared from a local application comprising at least one local application window, and transmit said events to be shared;

remote application sharing logic configured to receive events to be shared from said local application sharing logic, and transmit said events to at least one

corresponding remote application comprising at least one remote application window, for processing; and

window synchronization verification logic configured to correlate said at least one local application window with said at least one remote application window.

7. A method for providing synchronization verification of multiple applications across remote systems, comprising the steps of:

selecting a local application, said local application including at least one local application window, to share events with at least one corresponding remote application, said at least one corresponding remote application including at least one remote application window;

transmitting said shared events from said at least one local application window to said at least one remote application window for processing; and

verifying synchronization of said at least one local application window with said at least one remote application window.

13. A system for providing synchronization verification of multiple applications across remote systems, the synchronization verification system comprising:

means for selecting a local application, said local application including at least one local application window to share events with at least one corresponding remote application, said at least one corresponding remote application including at least one remote application window;

means for transmitting said shared events from said at least one local application window to said at least one remote application window for processing; and

means for verifying synchronization of said at least one local application window with said at least one remote application window.

Response To Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by *Varma* (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,134). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the grounds that *Varma* does not disclose or teach all of the claimed elements in these claims. For this reason, Applicants

respectfully request that the Examiner kindly withdraw this rejection and pass this application to issue.

Claims 1, 7, 13:

Varma does not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the claimed elements of independent claims 1, 7, and 13. For example, independent claim 1 is directed to a system for providing "*synchronization verification*" of multiple applications and recites "*window synchronization verification logic*." Independent claim 7 is directed to a method for providing "*synchronization verification*" and recites the step of "*verifying synchronization*" of said at least one local application window with said at least one remote application window. Independent claim 13 is directed to a system for providing "*synchronization verification*" of multiple applications across remote systems and recites a "*means for verifying synchronization*." Although *Varma* provides synchronization of the work spaces on remote clients, the reference does not "verify" that the work spaces on each client are actually synchronized. For at least this reason, Applicants believe that these independent claims are allowable over *Varma*.

Furthermore, independent claim 1 recites "*local application sharing logic*" configured to "*receive events to be shared*." Claim 7 recites a step of "*selecting a local application...to share events*" with at least one corresponding remote application. Claim 13 recites a "*means for selecting a local application...to share events*" with at least one corresponding remote application. *Varma* does not teach or suggest receiving and sharing "events," but instead teaches the use of a central server that receives *modifications* from clients directly. As mentioned in the specification of the present application, sharing "events" requires less transmission activity and simplifies the collaboration session as opposed to processing modifications and sharing the entire modified work space with remote clients. Although *Varma* provides an reasonable solution to the problem of transmitting large amounts of data related to work space modifications by sub-dividing or "*partitioning*" the work space into pieces, the *Varma* solution is different from the solution provided by the present claims and application in which "events," not modifications, are shared.

The independent claims further contain the aspect of a "*remote application sharing logic*" and at least one "*corresponding remote application*" that receives the

shared events. *Varma*, on the other hand, discloses that the modification requests are transmitted directly to the respective partition server, which modifies a particular work space partition. Then the respective partition server communicates the modified work space back directly to each of the active clients. *Varma* is silent as to the use of local application sharing logic and remote application logic as claimed and as described in the specification of the present application. Instead, *Varma* includes a direct communication link from each client to the respective partition servers.

A proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that a single prior art reference disclose each element of the claim. *See, e.g., W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Since independent claims 1, 7, and 13 contain elements that are not taught by *Varma*, as mentioned above, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner kindly withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection.

After a thorough reading of the *Varma* reference, and specifically the passages pointed out in the Office Action, it is believed that *Varma* does not teach or suggest all of the claimed elements of the independent claims, as mentioned above. However, if the Examiner believes that *Varma* teaches such elements, then it is respectfully requested that the Examiner kindly direct the Applicants' attention to specific passages in the reference to support this belief.

Dependent claims 2-5, 8-11, and 14-17 are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claims 1, 7, and 13. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Response To Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6, 12, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over *Varma* (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,134) in view of Katsurabayashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,308,199). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection on the grounds that Katsurabayashi fails to overcome the deficiencies of *Varma*, as mentioned above, with respect to the claim elements recited in independent claims 1, 7, and 13, from which claims 6, 12, and 18 depend.

In order for a claim to be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, the teachings of the prior art reference must suggest all features of the claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art. *See, e.g., In re Dow Chemical*, 837 F.2d 469, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d

1529, 1531 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 U.S.P.Q. 871, 881 (C.C.P.A. 1981).

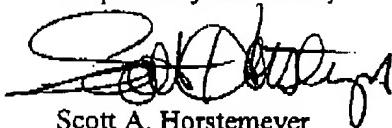
Furthermore, there is no motivation found in the prior art that would teach one of ordinary skill to combine the references as suggested in the Office Action. In addition, the references, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the claimed elements. "Obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching or suggestion supporting the combination. Under section 103, teachings of references can be combined only if there is some suggestion or incentive to do so." *ACS Hospital Systems, Inc., v. Montefiore Hospital*, 732 F.2d 1572, 1577, 221 USPQ 929, 933 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

The Office Action includes a way in which the references may be combined. However, the references fail to suggest the desirability of making the combination as indicated in the Office Action. "[T]he mere fact that the prior art could be so modified would not have made the modification obvious unless the prior art suggested the desirability of the modification." *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 U.S.P.Q. 1125, 1127 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all rejections have been traversed, and that the pending claims 1-18 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231, on February 5, 2003.

Eudie Sanders
Signature -